

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-5 and 9-10 stand rejected.

Claims 6-8 stand objected to.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended without prejudice herein.

Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice herein.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Karkau (United States Patent No. 5,361,524). Claims 2, 3, 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karkau in view of Cocho (United States Patent No. 1,681,172). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karkau in view of Cocho, and further in view of Fegley (United States Patent No. 4,454,963). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-8 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to recite all of the limitations of the base claim, and any intervening claims. Claim 6 relies upon base Claim 1, and intervening Claim 2.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite the limitations of allowable Claim 6 and intervening Claim 2, without prejudice, and subject to Applicant's right to seek further prosecution of the previously claimed subject matter in a related application. Applicant has cancelled Claims 2 and 6, without prejudice, and subject to Applicant's

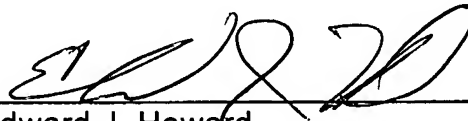
right to seek further prosecution of the previously claimed subject matter in a related application. Applicant has also amended Claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 to each depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, no new matter or new issues have been presented.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward J. Howard
Reg. No. 42,670
Plevy, Howard & Darcy, PC
P.O. Box 226
Fort Washington, PA 19034
(215) 542-5824 (Phone)
(215) 542-5824 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: 6/4/07